

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>	<i>Complete if known</i>	
	Application Number: 09/836,781	
	Filing Date: April 17, 2001	
	First Named Inventor: Whitman	
	Group Art Unit: 3721	
	Examiner Name: Tran, Louis B.	
SHEET 1 OF 2	Attorney Docket Number: 3556-P03147USO	

**UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
<i>ML</i>		3,252,643	05/1966	Stekkopytov, et al.
		5,314,436	05/24/1994	Wilk
		5,395,033	3/07/1995	Byrne, et al
		5,431,645	7/11/1995	Smith, et al
		5433721	0718//1995	Hooven, et al.
		5,529,235	6/25/1996	Boiarski, et al.
		5,609,560	3/11/1997	Ichikawa, et al.
		5,617,857	4/08/1997	Chader, et al.
		5,653,374	08/05/1997	Young, et al.
		5,661,517	09/16/1997	Hooven
		5,662,259	09/1997	Yoon
		5,662,259	9/02/1997	Yoon
		5,779,130	07/14/1998	Alesi, et al.
		5,868,760	02/19/1999	McGuckin, Jr.
		5,954,259	09/21/1999	Viola, et al.
		5,993,454	11/30/1999	Longo
		6,059,719	5/09/2000	Yamanoto, et al.
		6,068,627	5/30/2000	Drzucak, et al.
		6,083,627	7/04/2000	Kenny, et al.
		6,119,913	09/19/2000	Adams, et al.
		6,264,087	07/24/2001	Whitman
		6,315,184	11/13/2001	Whitman
		6,434,507	8/13/2002	Clayton, et al.
		6,443,973	09/03/2002	Whitman
<i>ML</i>		6,491,201	12/10/2002	Whitman

EXAMINER'S SIGNATURE	<i>Michelle G...</i>	DATE CONSIDERED	<i>03/03/05</i>
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**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 5609. Draw a line through citation if citation not in conformance and reference not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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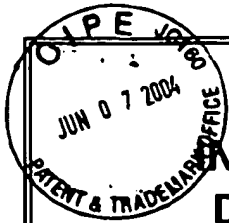
<i>ML</i>		6,517,565	2/11/2003	Whitman
<i>ML</i>		6,716,233	04/06/2004	Whitman

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	COUNTRY OR REGION	DATE OF PUBLICATION MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR OR APPLICANT
<i>ML</i>		0,634,144	EP	07/14/1994	ETHICON, INC.
<i>I</i>		99/58076	WO	11/18/1999	
<i>I</i>		0,947,167	EP	3/29/1999	ETHICON, INC.
<i>ML</i>		00/72762	WO	12/07/2000	POWERMED, INC.

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS		
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Include name of the author (in Capital Letters), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item(book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published

EXAMINER'S SIGNATURE	<i>Michelle EJ</i>	DATE CONSIDERED	<i>03/03/05</i>
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SHEET 1 OF 1

Attorney Docket Number: 3556-P03147USO

## UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
ML		6,616,446	09/09/2003	Schmid

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

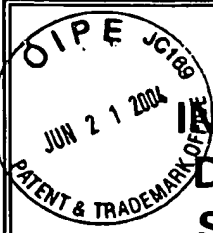
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	COUNTRY OR REGION	DATE OF PUBLICATION MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR OR APPLICANT

## OTHER PRIOR ART - NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Include name of the author (in Capital Letters), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item(book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published

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EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
<i>ML</i>		6308089	10/23/2001	von der Ruhr, et al.

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EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	DOCUMENT NUMBER	COUNTRY OR REGION	DATE OF PUBLICATION MM-DD-YYYY	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR OR APPLICANT
<i>ML</i>		659146	RU	04/30/1979	(w/English translation)

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS		
EXAMINER'S INITIALS	CITE NO.	Include name of the author (in Capital Letters), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item(book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published

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